

THE EXCITER

Formerly Called Gutter Dope, Established in 1934.

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SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

FIELD DAY 24-25 JUNE

W5SC, THE SAN ANTONIO RADIO CLUB WILL BE IN OPERATION AT WOODLAWN LAKE IN SAN ANTONIO. COME OUT JOIN THE GANG OR WORK US ON THE AIR.

SPECIAL NOTICE

There will be no formal Club meeting on 16 June. Instead Charlie Hildebrandt, K5VCR, is planning to christen his new ham-shack at 431 Sharon Dr. by having the members of the Club drop in for coffee. He also made the statement that everyone was welcome to drop by. I still don't know where he is going to put 500 people.

The meetings in July will be held at the Perry Shankle Co. Conference Room at 1801 South Flores St. on July 7 and 21. See you there.

who had been living in Florida. Arthur died in his sleep on 21 May. He was the radio officer on the SS Fullerton Hills for 20 years. He served in the Merchant Marine service during the War and retired in 1959. He was probably the best CW man in these parts. His passing will leave a void in the ranks of the men that have made amateur radio what it is today. Arthur was survived by a daughter in San Antonio and a son who is stationed at the Pentagon.

DOOR PRIZES

Door prizes given at the 5 May meeting were won as follows: \$2.50 Certificate from Radio & TV Parts Co., K5SJB; \$2.50 Certificate from Sherman Electronics Supply, K5PKX; \$2.50 Certificate from Bill Case Sound, K5OPT; and the Printed Circuit Board of the Month from Irving Electronics, W5IWE. Then at the 19 May meeting the prizes went this way: \$5.00 Certificate from Modern Electronics, K5SJB; \$2.50 Certificate from Radio & TV Parts Co., W5HHE; \$2.50 Certificate from Sherman Electronics Supply, K5OPT; \$2.50 Certificate from Bill Case Sound, K5ZSJ; and the Printed Circuit board from Irving Electronics went to W5BKM.

SILENT KEYS

Old Timers in San Antonio will be saddened to hear of the passing of Arthur Hutchins, formerly W5AXI,

VHF AND UP

In early May, your reporter attended the annual spring meeting of the International Scientific Radio Union and IRE (URSI-IRE) held at Georgetown University in Washington, D. C.

Present at the meeting was an old regular, Ed Tilton, W1HDQ, QST VHF Editor. Ed regularly receives the EXCITER and was highly complimentary of the SARC.

Of the many interesting topics presented in the propagation field, one of most concern to radio amateurs was in the area of extreme-distance VHF paths—work similar to that done by W6NLZ and KH6UK. Pan American Airways has repeatedly had contact with a receiving installation in Oakland, Calif., and jets flying near Hawaii (2500 miles) at 10,30,000 ft. The aircraft transmitted with 25 watts into a vertical monopole on 128 mc. and the signals were received

Editor	K5PKX
VHF Editor	W5LFM
DX Editor	W5LGG
Mobile Editor	W5EJT
Novice Editors	K5RNN and K5RNO
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THE SAN ANTONIO RADIO CLUB W5SC	
W5HHE, Pres.	W5IWE, V. P.
K5VCR, Sec.	K5TYI, Treas.
W5DKF, Program chairman	

on a 20 db. gain corner-reflector array at a height of 1600 ft!

Termed twilight enhancement, this mode of propagation allows voice contact all the way out from Frisco until the aircraft starts its decent over Hawaii. The mechanism is not unlike ionospheric scatter and is thought to be due to the low vertical angle (.04 deg.) of the first antenna lobe. Aircraft height is actually minor in extending the radio horizon at these great distances. As with surface ducting which radio amateurs use, there is a relationship between the duct and meteorological data.

There were many VHF men present and W1HDQ arranged a night-time session which lasted into the early hours. Present were W1HDQ, W3O TC, W4LTU, of meteor-trail fame, W5LFM, W7VMQ, W7VOO and WOMOX. W7VMQ, who is now attending Stanford Univ. under W6-QYT, is a triplet and the triplets have the calls of VMO, VMP, and VMQ! Truly a triple-threat VHF team.

George Munsch, W5VPQ/4, reports from Lynchburg, Va., that he

used to hear, while in S.A., the broadband signals on the high end of 6 meters as mentioned in last month's EXCITER. (What a nation-wide circulation the EXCITER has!)

A climax of the meeting for your reporter was to meet H. H. Beverage, who invented the long-wire antenna for use at medium and low-frequencies in the historic, early days of radio. Strung about 15 ft. above ground, the wire used to stretch up to 5 miles across country. (No, Pierre, Beverage invented the long-wire, not the beer-can vertical) And so it runs for now. Regards, Cal Graf, W5LFM.

DX NOTES

Recent DXCC listings show Bob Carr, W5UX, with 270 confirmed countries! Congratulations Bob on passing another astronomical milestone. Also runs include W5LGG with 259, K5BGB with 230 and W5EJT with 153. DXCC has also added another official country, Malpelo Island, (as expected) QSL's accepted after August 1.

Sunspots are in the news again but, unfortunately, sad news. Average sunspot numbers, as is well known, are rapidly declining since the December 1958 peak of 200 was passed. The sad part is, that according to empirical data gathered on the sunspot cycles from 1750 to date, the next several eleven year cycles are expected to reach maxima much below 1958's record 200. In fact, some pre-

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dictions go so far as to say that even by the year 2000 (4 cycles from now) the maximums attained in each of these next four cycles may reach peaks of no more than 70. Apparently a sawtooth-like variation is superimposed upon groups of seven or more eleven-year cycles and the next record level peaks with sunspot numbers in excess of 120 are not expected until the year 2035 or 2046.

It is well to re-emphasize that these gloomy predictions are at best calculated guesses, not scientific facts and we can at least hope that someone has guessed wrong.

Meanwhile, there's still lots of rare DX on the bands. Coming DX-peditions include ones to Timor (CR10), Transjordan, Goa, the Arab neutral Zones and Franz Josef Land. CU on 20.

73 & DX,
Len, W5LGG

GUTTER DOPE

Receiver a couple of nice letters this month. One was from Bill Eckenrode, KN5ETJ. Bill has taken his general examination and is waiting for the good word. Good luck, Bill. The other letter was from Bill Key, K5EXE, in Kerrville. From his letter we quote, "Kerrville is getting ready for the hundreds of hams we hope to have come to the South Texas ARRL Convention in our city on Oct. 13-15, 1961. The Kerrville Radio Club wishes to extend invitations to all hams and their families to plan their vacation accordingly and spend that weekend in the Heat of the Hills —Kerrville.

The local radio club is also planning to have some fun on field day (isn't everyone???) on the highest hill around here. We wish a few hams from San Antonio and surrounding area would stop by while we're in

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operation—if for nothing more than a cup of coffee.”

Well, we are sorry we can't take Bill up on that coffee, but we will sure be there for the Convention in October.

Speaking of Kerrville, did you know that Cedric Toler, W5FNH, is now the Mayor of Kerrville.

Congratulations to Mike Smith, KN5JWZ on receiving his novice license. Mike is active on the 40 meter novice band.

John Mohn, W5MEU and XYL are back in San Antonio after an absence of several years. John is retired from the service and they plan to make this their permanent QTH.

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Word has been received from Alaska that Dennis Royce, K9GIR, is heading back for warmer climates. Friends of Dennis will be happy to hear that he will be stationed here again.

ITEMS FROM THE LOG OF W5LFM

From the DX man's bible:

DX—Be ye doers of the word and not hearers only.

DX—Many are called but few are chosen.

It is better to turn up the final than to curse the S-meter reading.

DX—Many call but few are Chosen (HL1).

DX—You can't work them, if they can't hear you.

DXer Confusious said:

A picture is worth a thousand words—or video requires much bandwidth.

More power to you—or keep your VSWR low.

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